

THE LACLEDE BLADE.

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LACLEDE, MISSOURI.

FROM ALL OVER THE STATE

Simplified Spelling.
Jefferson City.—State Superintendent of Education W. P. Evans is out in a letter advocating a sensible simplified method of spelling.

Senator Busby Will Retire.
Richmond.—A letter was received from Senator William G. Busby of Carrollton, Mo., stating he would not be a candidate for renomination at the 1914 state primary, from the Eighth senatorial district, composed of Carroll, Daviess, Caldwell and Ray counties.

Monticello Has Big Fire.
Monticello.—A fire which started in J. B. Marchand's drug store has swept the town. A heavy wind carried the flames through six buildings, constituting the principal business section of the town. The estimated loss is between \$40,000 and \$50,000.
Monticello is a town of about 300 inhabitants, is not on any railroad and is the county seat of Lewis county. It is nine miles west of Canton, Mo., and about 25 miles from Quincy.

Christmas Robbers Make Merry.
Kansas City.—"Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year," shouted back a trio of robbers, as they left the jewelry store of John Mufich after rifling the cash register and filling their pockets with watches, in Kansas City, Kan. Persons passing on the street who heard the greeting knew of nothing unusual happening until the excited jeweler appeared and called for officers. The robbers had disappeared by that time.
The men entered the store, within a block of a police station, and while one kept the proprietor covered with a revolver the others robbed the place. Mufich's loss amounted to several hundred dollars.

Turkey Scramble, New Game.
Savannah.—In a free-for-all scramble for turkeys held on a downtown street here several men and women received battered heads and most of the birds were torn to pieces. The scramble, so far as the human beings were concerned, was a good-natured one.
Several hundred persons—men, women and children—gathered in response to a merchant's advertisement that he would release 25 turkeys for the Christmas dinner of those lucky enough to capture one. The scrambler who failed to catch a fowl attempted to get one away from a lucky competitor. This resulted in fights, torn clothing and bruises. Town officials finally cleared the street.

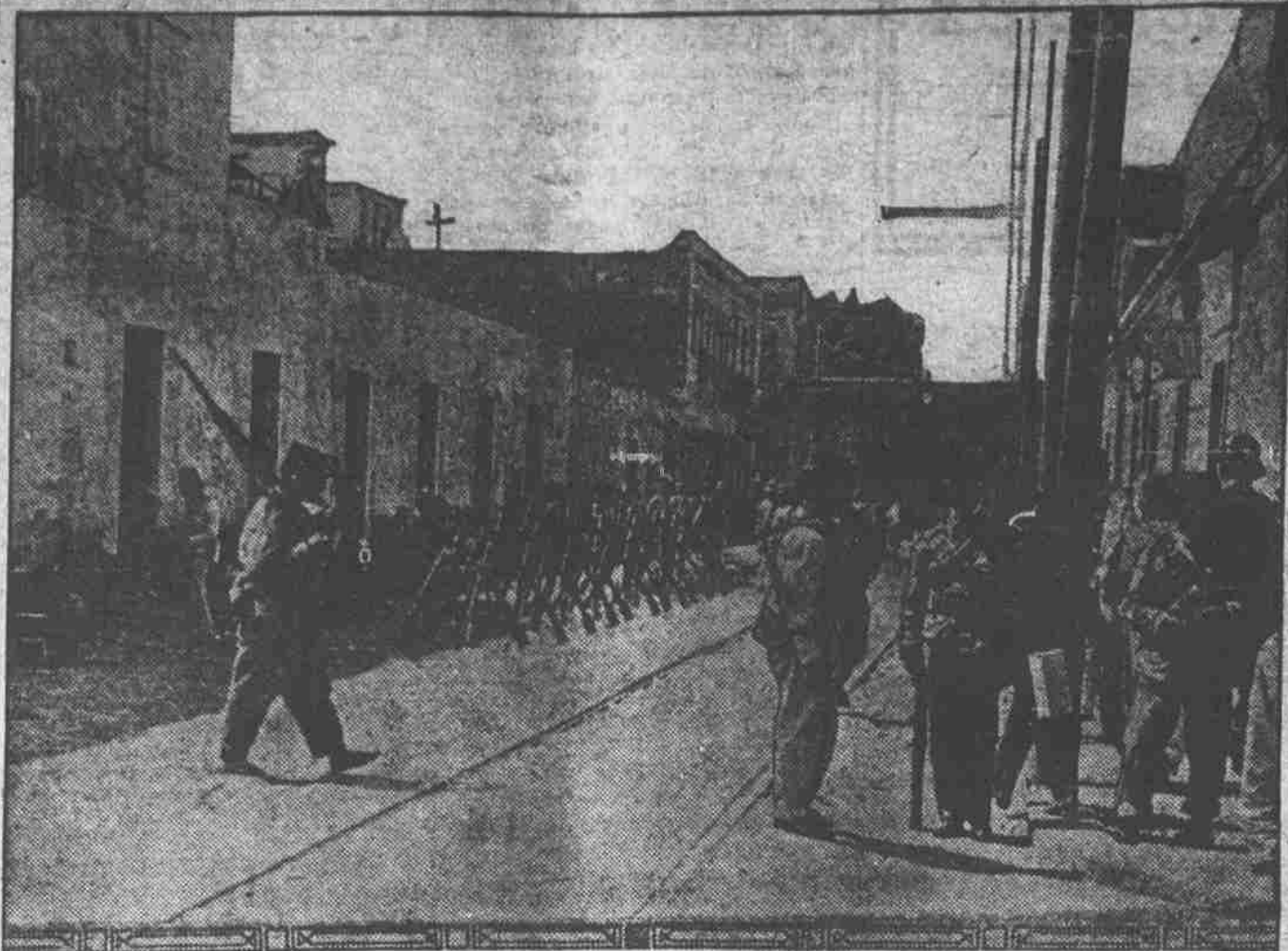
Steel Construction Saves Lives.
Montgomery City.—Nineteen persons were injured, none fatally, when Wabash train No. 9, the "Colorado Limited," en route from St. Louis, was derailed about three and one-half miles west of Montgomery City. All of the coaches except the rear sleeper left the track.
A majority of those injured were cut by broken glass. All steel equipment of the train probably saved many from serious injury and death, as four of the cars rolled into a ditch and turned over on their sides. The wreck was caused by a broken rail.
That none was killed is considered lucky, as trainmen say the wreck is one of the worst in their history. The track and right-of-way were torn up for more than 200 yards. The wreck is the first for Conductor J. S. Gould during his 26 years' service for the Wabash.

To Build Telephone Plant.
Mexico.—E. D. Graham, a former mayor of Mexico and owner of the telephone plant at Lexington, announced that he intends to build a new telephone exchange at Lexington. Work on the new plant will begin at once. Mr. Graham says he will install the latest type, multiple, common battery selective switchboard. The exchange building, he says, will be fireproof and will house only the telephone plant.

Fails to Find Hessian Fly.
Sedalia.—S. M. Jordan, farm expert for Pettis county, says the Hessian fly has not invaded this section, although it is reported to have damaged growing wheat in some parts of the state seriously.

Mr. Jordan says he has found a fly about the size of the insect that annoys cattle in the summer, and another about the size of a small ant, but they do little or no damage to wheat.
A third fly discovered is known as the Crane fly. It is about the size of a large mosquito and looks a little like the Hessian fly but does no great damage. A fourth fly that damaged both wheat and alfalfa is the leaf hopper, often mistaken for the Hessian fly.

HUERTA'S SOLDIERS LAY DOWN ARMS UNTIL PAID



Government soldiers with arms stacked in the Calle Ancha, a street in Mexico City, who refused to fight any longer for the Huerta government until paid and fed.

TO OUST TELEGRAPH

THE FRISCO RAILROAD INSTALLING TELEPHONES AND DISCHARGING OPERATORS.

MAKES A STRIKE USELESS

Special Trains Sent Over System and the Morse Instruments Removed—Eleven Hundred Men Affected.

Springfield, Mo.—In anticipation of the strike of 1,100 telegraphers employed on its lines, the St. Louis & San Francisco (Frisco) Railroad laid off indefinitely 400 telegraphers and began to transform its telegraph lines into a telephone system of railroad communication.

This action laid bare the company's plans for resisting the strike, to the utter amazement of the telegraphers, shippers and railroad circles in general.

Removal of all telegraphic instruments from the company's offices began at noon and was completed at midnight. It is said this is the first time such a transposition of the use of wires has been made by a railroad to avert a strike.

The telegraphers were laid off following the passage of twenty-four special trains of engine and caboose over each division.
Trains were taking all Morse telegraph instruments out of stations and installing telephone systems at larger division points. Many smaller towns on the line are without communication by telegraph.

The action of the railroad was taken immediately upon the issuance of strike instructions by the Order of Railroad Telegraphers whose demands for shorter hours and a 15 per cent increase in wages were refused by the road. Instruments are being stored in the storehouses at each division and telephones are being installed at the larger points. The Morse system is being converted into a Bell system, the first case of its kind in history.

DEPORTED FROM CALUMET

President of Miners' Union Sent Out of Strike Zone by Citizens Alliance.

Calumet, Mich.—Charles H. Moyer, president of the Western Federation of Miners, was out on a train and sent out of the copper strike district. The deportation was the direct result of refusal of families stricken by the Christmas eve disaster here to accept relief from a committee, the majority of whose members belonged to the Citizens' Alliance, an organization combating the five months' strike of the federation.

At the local federation headquarters Moyer's departure was called a "kidnapping by the Citizens' Alliance." The action was said to have caused as great surprise, as it was said that threats of such a possibility had been received two weeks ago. It was pointed out that these threats had been reported by Vice President Mahoney when he made a plea for a federal investigation of conditions before the rules committee of the national house of representatives.

MINERS BLAME THE OWNERS

Chicago Federation Adopts Resolutions Denouncing Them for Calumet Tragedy.

Chicago.—An appeal to Congress to investigate conditions in the copper country of Michigan was made by the Chicago Federation of Labor, in resolutions which directly charged owners of the mines and their agents with being responsible for the tragedy of Christmas Eve, when seventy-two children and adults lost their lives.

The resolutions also charged that Houghton county is under a government by gunmen under orders of the mine owners, and that Charles H. Moyer, president of the Western Federation of Miners, was assaulted, shot and driven out of Hancock by thugs and gunmen.

The resolutions related the condition of labor of the miners, declared that representatives of both state and national governments, after investigation, had found the miners had a real grievance.

WILL UNSCRAMBLE THE EGGS

President Wilson Also Plans to Prevent Any More Interlocking Directorates in Big Business.

Washington.—Constructive attack upon interlocking directorates and stock ownership in the big business corporations will mark President Wilson's special address to Congress on the trust action he desires, according to members of Congress.

The President's attitude, it was said, will be based largely upon his views expressed in the Jackson Day speech, last year. He said, substantially:

"You tell me that you cannot unscramble eggs; but before they are scrambled, you can separate them and see that the same eggs do not go into the baskets owned by one persons."

ST. LOUIS DAMAGED BY FIRE

Flames Threatened Entire Business Block—Five Story Building Collapsed.

St. Louis, Mo.—Fire discovered under great headway at 1 o'clock in the morning threatened to destroy the entire business block bounded by Sixth street, Broadway, Locust and St. Charles streets here.

At 2 o'clock the roof of a five-story building collapsed, showering burning embers on scores of firemen.

The fire started on the top floor of the building, in the heart of the business section, and soon spread to three other structures. The loss at 2:15 a. m. was estimated at \$250,000.

TELEGRAPHIC BRIEFS

Thomas Cruise, a banker, gave as a Christmas present to Bishop Carroll \$100,000 with which to complete the Catholic cathedral in Helena, Mont.

John Kowinski committed suicide at Chicago by leaping from the eighth floor of the Masonic Temple. His body was crushed on the safety net on the ninth floor of the rotunda.

The fifth anniversary of the great earthquake at Messina, Sicily, was solemnly commemorated by an imposing procession of 10,000 persons who marched to the cemetery to deposit flowers on the graves of the thousands of victims.

THE CALUMET DEAD BURIED

Fifty-Nine Victims of the Christmas Tragedy Laid to Rest—Miners Carried Coffins.

Calumet, Mich.—The Western Federation of Miners has buried its dead. Fifty-nine bodies, including those of forty-four children, were carried through the streets down a winding country highway and laid in graves in a snow enshrouded cemetery within sight of Lake Superior.

Thousands of saddened miners formed the escort of the funeral parties, and passed between other thousands who, as spectators, testified to the grief that has oppressed the community since seventy-two men, women and children were killed in the Christmas Eve panic in Italian hall.

For hours the Sabbath calm was broken by the tolling of bells and the sound of voices intoning burial chants. In half a dozen churches services were held earlier in the day and the mourners went about the streets passing from their homes to the churches, back to their homes, after brief respites and again to the churches to prepare for the last sad trip to the grave sides.

A SHELTER HOUSE WRECKED

Several Persons Injured When a Cleveland Building Collapsed During a Wind Storm.

Cleveland.—Several persons were injured and many were buried in wreckage when a shelter house on Ontario street, on the southwest corner of the public square, was blown down by the high winds which accompanied the snow here. The shelter house was crowded with persons waiting for street cars when the crash came. The walls fell inward and men, women and children were struck by timbers and broken glass. None of the victims was injured fatally. The high winds also broke several plate glass windows in the business district.

TIDAL WAVE ON THE PACIFIC

Towns Along Coast From Long Beach to Santa Barbara Were Inundated.

Los Angeles, Cal.—A hundred miles of beach towns and summer homes from Long Beach to Santa Barbara showed the effects of a high tide, combined with great swells, which swept the southern California coast.

The Malibu Highlands, above Los Angeles and other cliffs were unaffected, but miles of streets on the low beaches in summer towns west of Los Angeles were inundated.

So far as is known, none of the cottages was carried away from their foundations out to sea.

TELEPHONE TRUST GIVES IN

Has Promised Attorney General to Reorganize in Order to Escape Prosecution.

Washington.—Attorney General McReynolds has made public details of an agreement for the reorganization of the American Telephone and Telegraph Company. The telephone trust, which will prevent litigation to dissolve that corporation under the Anti-Trust act, and under which competitive conditions will be restored in the telephone service of the entire country. Moreover, the combine will dispose of its holdings in the Western Union Telegraph company.

DEATH IN A PANIC

SCORES OF CHILDREN KILLED FOLLOWING FALSE ALARM OF FIRE IN MICHIGAN.

SUFFOCATED IN A STAIRWAY

Children of Calumet Strikers Were Attending a Christmas Celebration. When the Cry of "Fire" Was Raised.

Calumet, Mich.—Seventy-four persons, mostly children, were killed at a copper mine strikers' Christmas celebration in an Italian hall here because of a needless panic caused by a false alarm of fire. The death list may grow.

While several hundred miners and their wives looked on, scores of children pressed eagerly towards the stage to receive Christmas presents, a man thrust his head in at the door of the hall and yelled, "Fire!" The cry of alarm was at once taken up by those in the hall. Everyone started for the doors.

The crush prevented movement. The weaker were thrown to the floor and those behind tried to climb over them.

The Stairway Blocked.

In a few minutes the panic was stopped by the fact that the stairway and the other avenues of egress were blocked so that those inside could not get out, and those without could not get in to aid the maimed and remove the dead.

The alarm was spread outside the hall by a few persons who had been near the door and escaped uninjured.

A crowd soon assembled and the work of clearing the hall began. The only regular exit was a narrow stairway at the back of the hall. When this had been cleared of the bodies that filled it to the top and a quick accounting had been made, it was found that seventy-four bodies had been piled up beside the hall building. It was believed that probably a dozen more had been carried away by friends.

Parents Wild in Grief.

The dead included thirty-seven girls, nineteen boys, thirteen women and five men. The excited relatives stood about the building, some dazed by the sudden change from holiday festivities to tragedy, others calling hysterically for a missing child and few even threatening violence to the rescuers for keeping them back from the long row of bodies.

The Hall Was Packed.

For many days the children of the copper mine strikers had waited eagerly for the Christmas tree exercises that had been arranged by the Woman's Auxiliary of the Western Federation of Miners. The entertainment was set for the early evening, and the hall, which is on the second floor, was filled to its limit.

The children selected to recite Christmas selections and sing carols had finished their part of the program and the man selected to play the part of Santa Claus had appeared to distribute the presents that were piled around the large tree. The children were instructed to march up the aisles to the tree, so the presents could be handed them.

"Fire!"

The aisles were filled with boys and girls when a man put his head in at the door of the main hallway and yelled "Fire!"

The fatal word had reached the ears of many in the hall, and it was repeated throughout the room.

"Fire!" was shouted in several languages, as parents rose and rushed forward to get the children. The lives were crushed out in almost an instant. Then the physical impossibility of further movement brought the panic stricken persons to their senses.

INCREASED COAL OUTPUT

In Missouri, Kansas, Oklahoma and Arkansas the Production Is Up 11 Per Cent.

Fort Smith, Ark.—During the first seven months of the present year the combined coal production of Missouri, Kansas, Oklahoma and Arkansas shows an increase of 11 per cent over the same period of last year, according to a report of the Southwestern Interstate Operators' Association. The production in the state of Missouri, however, shows a slight decrease. As the report does not include five of the most prosperous months the industry has ever experienced, it is believed the year's production will disclose an increase of from 25 to 33 per cent.

The report says labor conditions in Arkansas and Oklahoma are not satisfactory because of the high wage scale, which increases the cost of production and prohibits the operators from competing with fields where the wage scale is low.